

University of Kentucky
Central Appalachian Regional Education and Research Center
Annual Program Highlights
Reporting Period: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013
Principle Investigator: Wayne T. Sanderson, PhD

Overview

The Central Appalachian Regional Education and Research Center (CARERC) was launched with modest funding on July 1, 2012 and is focused on training occupational health professionals through graduate and continuing education. Whereas U.S. employers expect to hire an average of 5,000 occupational safety and health professionals per year, only 2,835 such professionals graduated in 2011. Many experienced personnel are approaching retirement age. Thus, demand for professional occupational safety and health services remains high. These services are critically needed in the 177 counties covered by CARERC in eastern Kentucky, western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, western Virginia, and southern West Virginia. Each of the Central Appalachian states included in our scope (KY, TN, WV, VA, and NC) report high proportions of fatal occupational injuries related to transportation/highway incidents; injuries in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; and mining – all regionally important industries (BLS-CFOI 2009, 2011).

CARERC combines the academic resources of three colleges at the University of Kentucky (UK) and the at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) to provide interdisciplinary graduate education and continuing education for students and health professionals in four programs:

- Mining Safety & Health (MS, PhD)(UK College of Engineering)
- Occupational/Environmental Health Nursing (PhD)(UK College of Nursing)
- Occupational Safety (MS in SSEM)(EKU College of Justice & Safety/School of Safety, Security and Emergency Management)
- Agricultural Safety & Health (MPH)(UK College of Public Health).

In its first year months alone, CARERC recruited 13 students into its core programs, with 4 additional trainees joining us in Fall 2013 for a total of 17 students: five MPH students in agricultural health and safety (ASH), four doctoral students in occupational nursing (OEHN), six master's students in occupational safety (SAFETY), and two master's-level student in mining health and safety (MINING). All CARERC trainees will complete the newly developed core courses and interdisciplinary seminar (CPH 699) and field survey course (CPH 698):

- CPH 620 Occupational Safety and Health (3 cr);
- CPH 699 Occupational Safety and Health ProSeminar (1 cr);
- CPH 698 Field Survey Course (3 cr);
- CON 760-210 Fundamentals and Principles of Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing (OEHN)
- CON 761-210 Research and Policy for OEHNs (3 cr).

OEHN trainees mentored by Dr. Deborah Reed developed an online CE course for occupational and environmental health nurses that also has relevant content for Ag Health nurses:

<http://academics.uky.edu/ukcon/pub/ContinuingEducation/Web%20Courses/Pages/OccupHealth.aspx>
. Key regional partners of the OEHN program include Western Kentucky University (Jones et al.) and East Tennessee State University (Wachs et al.)

CARERC partners with other regional institutions through its Pilot Research Projects (PRP) and Continuing Education (CE) programs. For example, CARERC has awarded pilot funds to Dr. Stephanie Richards et al. of East Carolina University for a stakeholder-centered study on the effectiveness of insecticide-treated clothing to prevent tick and mosquito exposure in foresters and loggers. Pilot research projects and field surveys provide an important vehicle for trainees to engage in applied research with members of CARERC's nationally recognized faculty. These include Mining safety and health core director Dr. Joe Sottile, recipient of the 2012 Stephen McCann Award for Excellence in Education from the Pittsburg Coal Mining Institute; OEHN Director Dr. Deb Reed, a 2013 Fellow of the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, and Dr. David Mannino, who has earned the 2013 COPD Treatment Achievement Award in recognition of his work on The COPD Foundation Pocket Consultant Guide for Diagnosis and Management of COPD.

Through a mutually beneficial subcontract arrangement between CARERC and ECU's OSHA Training Institute Education Center (OSHA TI EC), trainees at the University of Kentucky may enroll for a minimal base fee in any of the courses offered by OSHA TI EC: <http://osha.eku.edu/>

The University of Kentucky Department of Mining Engineering and CARERC collaborated on the first Annual Central Appalachian Regional Work Safety & Health Symposium: An Interdisciplinary Update on Miner Safety and Health, held concurrently with the 74th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Mining Institute. Distinguished speakers at this interdisciplinary event included the Honorable Andy Barr (KY-6th), the Honorable Joe Main, Assistant U.S. Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health (MSHA), and Dr. Charles Hoopes, Jason Alexander Gill Professor in Thoracic Surgery, University of Kentucky College of Medicine. The event was broadcasted via www.CEcentral.com, which will remain a key continuing education partner of CARERC. Our growing online presence also includes the CARERC Web site <http://www.mc.uky.edu/erc> and social media: https://twitter.com/CAR_ERC1 and <https://www.facebook.com/517852518254840>.